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Examiner: A. M. LezakGroup Art Unit: 243Tel No: 512-272-3916Fax #: 512-273-8300FROM: J. B. KRAFTTel No: 512-473-2303

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Docket No: GFN Property et al Serial No: 09/001,614 Atty: J. B. KRAFT
Applicant: Apple A US92000 0935 US1

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PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: : Group Art Unit: 2143
Gerald F. McBrearty et al. : Examiner A. M. Lezak
Serial No: 09/801,614 : Intellectual Property
Filed: 03/08/2001 : Law Department - 4064
Title: PROTECTING CONTENTS : International Business
OF COMPUTER DATA FILES FROM : Machines Corporation
SUSPECTED INTRUDERS BY : 11400 Burnet Road
PROGRAMMED FILE DESTRUCTION : Austin, Texas 78758
Date: 2/15/06 : Customer No. 32,329

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I hereby certify that this correspondence including the present Reply Brief (in triplicate) is being transmitted via facsimile to USPTO, Group Art Unit 2143 at telephone number 571-273-8300, and to the attention of Examiner A. M. Lezak on 02/15/06.

J.B.KRAFTJ.B.KraftREPLY BRIEF ON APPEAL
BEFORE THE BOARD OF APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is a Reply Brief to the Examiner's Answer mailed December 12, 2005.

In the Answer, the Examiner makes several fresh arguments which Applicants wish to address.

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To review and summarize the claimed invention: it provides a very aggressive solution to the problem of unauthorized intrusions into database files. It provides for storing for each of the plurality of data files, a backup file which is inaccessible to any user requests. Then, as soon as an initial unauthorized intrusion is determined, the requested data files are destroyed, and the respective stored backup files are substituted for the destroyed files. (e.g. claim 1)

The Final Rejection holds that the claims (as represented by claim 1) are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the combination of Schneck (US5,933,498) in view of Groshon (US6,351,811).

The Examiner admits that Schneck does not teach storing for each of said plurality of data files, a backup file inaccessible to user requests. However, the Examiner has failed to note that Schneck also does not disclose reloading a backup file for each destroyed file.

Examiner looks to the Groshon Patent to make up for these deficiencies in the basis Schneck Patent. Applicants have argued that Groshon fails to teach the above two claimed elements of the present Application. The Examiner's Answer has the following arguments in response to Applicant's Brief which Applicants wish to address.

On page 7 of the Answer, Examiner argues that the backup Web pages described on page 7 of Groshon are equivalent to the stored backup files. The Examiner then goes on to note that applicant's claim is completely silent, "as to the use of the backup file (control copy) for purposes of determining whether a received request for data files is an unauthorized intrusion"

Applicants agree with the Examiner. Applicants have never argued that their backup files are used to determine

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whether there has been an unauthorized intrusion. Please note that in the annotations for claim 1 in Section V, Summary of Claimed Invention in the Appeal Brief, Applicants have referred to the Application Specification, p. 10, line 25 through p. 11, line 34 describing several examples of how an unauthorized intrusion may be determined. None of Applicants' examples remotely suggest comparison with the stored backup files. In Applicants' claims, the stored backup files are used only to replace the destroyed original files only after an unauthorized intrusion has been detected by the other means described above.

Applicants submit it is the Examiner who appears to be arguing that the backup Web pages in Groshon are used for comparison purposes. The Examiner has referred to col 5, lines 1-9 as teaching that the comparison made by Groshon's backup files is for the purpose of determining unauthorized intrusion. Actually, the comparison in Groshon is in response to a request for a Web page. A comparison is made with a backup copy to validate the requested page i.e. insure that the Web page is intact. Groshon (at col. 6, lines 34-38) even goes on to state that there may be circumstances where compromised and suspect data may be transmitted and used. This lack of urgency certainly would not lead one skilled in the art to Applicants' immediate solution of immediate destruction of the intruded data file and the substitution of the stored backup file.

Groshon is not interested in determining whether the request for the Web page is an intrusion. It is only after a request for a Web page is made that Groshon compares to determine Web page integrity.

With respect to Examiner's argument on page 6 (10.1) of the Answer that Applicants have only Argued the shortcomings of the two references individually, Applicants submit that

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there is little in either of the two references to suggest their combination in the manner suggested by Examiner. Schneek teaches protection of a database involving among other expedients monitoring for intrusions, and destroying data intruded upon. Groshon is primarily interested in the integrity of a Web page after the page has been requested. Groshon compares with backup copy of the Web page only after the Web page request. The claimed combination of storing for each of the plurality of data files, a backup file which is inaccessible to any user requests, the destruction of unauthorized data files as soon as an initial unauthorized intrusion is determined, and the substitution of respective stored backup files for the destroyed files can only come from Applicants' own teaching.

Accordingly, for the above reasons and for the reasons set forth in the Brief on Appeal, it is respectfully requested that the Final Rejection be reversed, and that claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, 13, 14, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, and 30 be found to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted

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Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 19,226
(512) 473-2303

PLEASE MAIL ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Herman Rodriguez
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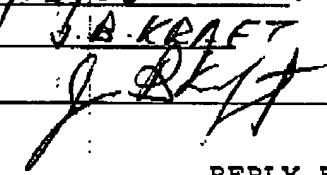
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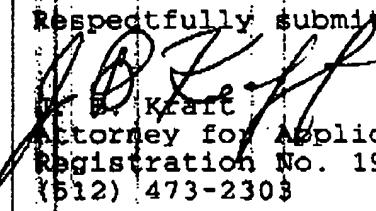
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